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July 21, 2023

Via CM/ECF with Permission

The Honorable John R. Tunheim
United States District Court
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

The Honorable Eric C. Tostrud
United States District Court
316 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

> **Re: Joint Letter Regarding Related Matters *O'Shea Chairse v. Minnesota Department of Human Services and Jodi Harpstead*, Civil File No. 23-cv-00355 and *Kyle Jerome Dalen v. Jodi Harpstead*, Civil File No. 23-cv-01877**

Dear Judges Tunheim and Tostrud:

The parties agree that this matter, *Dalen v. Harpstead*, is related to the earlier-filed matter *Chairse v. DHS, et al.*, which is now pending before Judge Tostrud. In the parties' shared view, these cases are related both because they share common issues of law and fact and common defendants. We believe that the interests of judicial economy would be served if they were handled by a single judge. *See* Order on Assignment of Cases, section 4 (a) i. & iii. (Standing Order for U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota) (July 19, 2021).

If your Honors agree, the parties understand that reassignment of *Dalen* to Judge Tostrud would be appropriate under the practice in this district and because *Chairse* is first-filed. *Id.*, 4(c).[1]

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[1] Counsel for the plaintiffs in *Chairse* communicated over email that they take no position on this request.

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       Please let us know if the Court would prefer the parties to submit this request in a different form or manner or would like to hold a status conference to discuss this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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